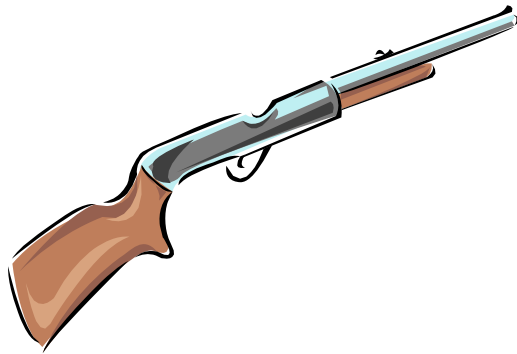




## **USAG-AK WEAPON SAFETY HANDBOOK**



Young minds are curious minds!



**Keep your weapons and  
ammunition locked up to keep  
them SAFE!**

## **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS** **ABOUT PRIVATELY OWNED WEAPONS** **(POW)**

1. Am I required to register my weapons on Post? Yes, All personnel (Military and Civilian) living on Post are required to register their weapons with the Military Police (MP) within 7 days of arrival on Forts Richardson and Wainwright, or within 3 days of purchasing a new weapon. Contact 384-0823 or 353-7535 for more information.
2. Are concealed weapons allowed on Army installations? NO! State Concealed Carry Permits are not valid on Federal Installations. Concealed POWs are not allowed on Fort Richardson or Fort Wainwright.
3. Is a hunter safety card required to hunt on Post? Yes. Outdoor Recreation will check your hunter safety card before issuing you an on Post hunting permit.
4. Where can I store my weapons?
  - a. Personnel living in the barracks will store their POWs and ammunition in the unit arms room.
  - b. Personnel living in Post Housing will store their weapons in their quarters with their Commander's permission or in the unit arms room.
  - c. Temporary weapons storage is available at the MP desk.
  - d. POWs are not allowed in any temporary lodging facilities.
5. Can I take my POW to the field? NO! Privately Owned Weapons are not authorized in a field environment.
6. Can I transport my weapons loaded? NO! Weapons will not be transported or stored in a loaded condition. The best way to transport a weapon is unloaded, and locked in the trunk of your car.  
Note: this is for transportation only, not storage.

7. What penalties do I face violation on post weapons rules? Violators can be charged with failure to obey an order or regulation (Article 92 UCMJ). Your Commander may consider various administrative, nonjudicial and judicial action. Your weapon may also be confiscated and destroyed in certain cases.
8. If you have any further questions regarding privately owned weapons registration call vehicle and weapons registration at 384-0824 or 353-7535

## **Cardinal Rules for Firearm Safety**

1. **Treat every gun as if it were loaded.** This is the most important of all the safety rules. By treating all guns as though they were loaded, accidents will be avoided. "I didn't know the gun was loaded" is the poorest excuse for carelessness.
2. **Don't trust the safety mechanisms.** Although these devices are designed to mechanically prevent a weapon from firing, they are mechanical and subject to wear. Always keep the safety "ON" when not shooting, but remember it is not a 100 percent guarantee against the weapon firing.
3. **Always make sure a gun is empty before handling or cleaning.** Because it is impossible to determine whether or not a gun is loaded just by looking at it, never assume or take another's word that it is empty-MAKE SURE! It only takes a second to check, and the time spent may save a life.
4. **Always keep a gun pointed in a safe direction.** Know where the muzzle of your gun is pointing at all times. When this practice is conscientiously followed, injuries, damage or even death may be avoided should the weapon accidentally discharge.
5. **Point guns only at targets you intend to shoot.** Never point a gun at yourself or another person. Insist that others abide by this rule.

6. **Unload guns when not in use.** Empty guns cannot discharge even if they fall into unfamiliar hands.
7. **Avoid horseplay.** Firearms are deadly and must be treated with the respect they deserve. They are not toys and should not be treated as if they were.
8. **Always make sure the gun barrel is clean and free of foreign matter.** Sand, mud, ice or snow, which may have entered the gun barrel, should be removed before loading and firing the weapon.

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### **Firearm safety in the home**

1. **Know how to operate each gun and know its safety features.**
2. **Keep guns unloaded, locked up, and out of reach of children.**
3. **Keep ammunition stored separately and locked up.**
4. **Teach firearm safety to members of the family.**

### **Parent Responsibility**

In the home where weapons are kept, the degree of safety a child has rests squarely on the child's parents. Parents who accept the responsibility to learn, practice and teach firearm safety rules will ensure their child's safety to a much greater extent than those who do not. Parental responsibility does not end, however, when the child leaves the home. Even if no one in your family owns a firearm, chances are that someone you know does. Your child could come in contact with a firearm at a neighbor's house, when playing with friends, or under other circumstances outside your home. It is critical for your child to know what to do if he or she encounters a firearm anywhere, and it is the parents' responsibility to provide that training. Above all, tell the child that if he or she should come across a firearm, leave it alone and tell an adult.

### **Talking With Your Child About Firearm Safety**

Every year in the United States, nearly 500 children under 19 die from unintentional shootings. Another 8,000 are injured. Most involve handguns at home. The victims are the shooters themselves (mostly boys), their playmates, siblings, and other relatives. Most commonly, unsupervised children find a loaded handgun in their own home or at a friend's home, and it is fired "in play." There is no particular age to talk with your child about weapon safety. A good time to introduce the subject is the first time he or she shows an interest in firearms, even toy pistols or rifles. Talking openly and honestly about firearm safety with your child is usually more effective than just ordering him or her to "Stay out of the gun closet," and leaving it at that. Such statements may just stimulate a child's natural curiosity to investigate further. As with any safety lesson, explaining the rules and answering a child's questions help remove the mystery surrounding guns. Any rules set for your child should also apply to friends who visit the home. This will help your child from being pressured into showing a firearm to a friend.

### **Safety in Use**

1. **Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.** A safe direction means that the firearm is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.
2. **Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.** When holding a firearm, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the weapon not touching the trigger, until you are actually ready to fire.

3. **Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use it.** Whenever you pick up a firearm, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the weapon has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the firearm alone and get help from someone who does.
4. **Know your target and what is beyond.** Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second.
5. **Be sure the firearm is safe to operate.** Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain operable. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.
6. **Know how to use the firearm safely.** Before handling a firearm, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the firearm or magazine. Remember, a firearm's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe firearm handling.
7. **Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.** Only cartridges or shells designed for a particular firearm can be fired safely in that firearm. Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. **NEVER** shoot the firearm unless you know you have the proper ammunition.
8. **Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.** Firearms are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gasses that can cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooters and spectators should wear shooting glasses and hearing protectors.

9. **Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.** Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting weapons.

### **Safety When Storing a Firearm**

1. **Store weapons so they are secure and are not accessible to unauthorized persons.** Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. Whether you live on or off post will be a deciding factor on how and where a firearm should be stored.
2. **ON POST: All weapons that are stored on post must be registered with the Provost Marshall.** If residing in troop billets the only authorized place of storage is the unit arms room. Persons residing in family quarters must obtain their unit Commander's permission to store weapons in their quarters. The arms room is the recommended place of storage for all privately owned weapons.
3. **OFF POST:** It is recommended that all weapons are registered with the Provost Marshall. Storage facilities should incorporate "The Common Sense" test.
4. **Whether you live in quarters or off post, look into a weapon safety and locking device.** Lock the weapon up, and keep it away from children. Keep the ammunition locked away in a separate location, and keep the key away from your children. Dozens of firearm storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the firearm, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into firearms can fail, so children should not have access to any area where firearms are stored.

## **Safety When Cleaning a Firearm**

**Before cleaning you weapon, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded and no ammunition is in the firearm.** Regular cleaning is important in order for your firearm to operate correctly and safely. Taking proper care of it will extend its life. Your firearm should be cleaned every time that it is used. A firearm brought out of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil can prevent the firearm from operating properly. Before starting out in cleaning your weapon, select a site free of clutter and away from other hazards. Ensure you use the proper cleaning solvents and equipment to prevent damage to the weapon. Remember that cleaning solvents are hazards themselves, therefore, care should be taken to protect yourself and others that might come into contact with the work area.

### **Major Causes of Shooting Accidents:**

1. Intentional Weapon Discharge:
  - The victim moved into line of fire without warning.
  - The victim was shot by an excited shooter who fired too quickly at game.
  - The victim was not seen by the shooter.
  - The victim was mistaken for game.
2. Accidental Weapon Discharge:
  - When the shooter stumbled or fell with loaded gun.
  - When the gun trigger caught on brush.
  - When the shooter was using a loaded gun to club or flush game.
  - When removing loaded gun from a boat or vehicle.
  - When climbing over fences with loaded gun.
  - When horsing around with an **“unloaded”** gun.
  - When loading or unloading a gun.

## **Gun Powder and Alcohol Do Not Mix**

“Bullets and booze” are dangerous! It is a fact that alcohol in the body affects judgment and impairs reflexes. In the field with guns is not the place for this combination. Sportsmen must be alert at all times. Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages before and during shooting trips.

## **Gun Handling:**

**The key to safety is proper gun handling. Of the cardinal rules for firearm safety, there are three which, if faithfully practiced by everyone handling guns, will prevent firearm accidents. Observe these cardinal rules at all times:**

- **Treat EVERY gun as if it were loaded.**
- **ALWAYS point the muzzle in a safe direction.**
- **Be SURE of your target**

### **Items Prohibited on Post:**

- Shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches.
- Rifles with barrels less than 16 inches.
- Any altered shotgun or rifle that is less than 26 inches in overall length.
- Any other firearm, except conventional pistols or revolvers capable of firing a shot and being concealed on a person.
- Fully automatic firearms, and any part intended to convert semiautomatic firearms to fully automatic.
- Silencers or mufflers designed for use on firearms.
- Inertia or spring loaded knives.
- Stun guns and TASERs
- Discharging a firearm in the cantonment area of Post

- Discharge of a firearm other than hunting in authorized areas or at authorized ranges
- Transporting privately owned weapons in military vehicles
- Transporting military weapons in POVs

### **Other USARAK Restrictions:**

Weapons will only be transported:

- To and from hunting areas
- To and from authorized ranges
- For purposes of sale or purchase
- To and from authorized off-Post activities
- Unloaded
- Be in full view or locked in the trunk.

For more information see USARAK REG 190-1

### **Points of Contact**

**MP Desk:** (Weapon registration and hunting area questions)

**FRA 384-0823**

**FWA 353-7535**

**Outdoor Recreation** (Hunting questions):

**FRA 384-1475**

**FWA 353-6349**

**Range Control:** (Sport fire range questions)

**FRA 384-6230**

**FWA 353-1265**

**Post Safety:** (Safety questions)

**FRA 384-2382**

**FWA 353-7078**

## **The 10 Commandments of Gun Safety**

1. **Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.**
2. **Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.**
3. **Don't rely on your gun's safety.**
4. **Be sure of your target and what is behind it.**
5. **Use proper ammunition.**
6. **If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.**
7. **Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.**
8. **Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.**
9. **Don't alter or modify your gun and have it serviced regularly.**
10. **Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.**